Performance of Israeli Barak Defence System

1572. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during a recent trial by Indian navy, the newly acquired Israeli Barak Defence System was found to have fallen short of the target;

(b) if so, whether Israeli military experts were consulted for diagnosing the fault in the system; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):(a) Although the target was successfully shot down during one of the two firing runs, it was declared unsatisfactory because of certain technical malfunctioning.

(b) and (c)The malfunctions noted during the trial have been examined by the equipment manufacturer and a re-trial of the system is being scheduled shortly.

Steps to boost combat efficiency of Army

1573. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is stagnation in the officer's cadre of the armed forces and older age profile of battlefield commanders may adversely affect the combat efficiency of our Army;

(b) if so, details of short-term and long-term steps proposed to be taken so as to avoid any dilution in combat capabilities of our Army; and

(c) whether the structure of training content of our Armed Forces is continuously reviewed with a view to update the changing profile of attack ^strategy, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Several issues relating to stagnation in the officers' cadre and the older age profile of commanders of the Army were brought to the notice of the Ministry of Defence. In order to examine these issues, a Committee

under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary in the Ministry of Defence was constituted.The recommendations of the Committee were examined in the Ministry and some of them have been accepted in principle for implementation.

2. As far as the structure of training is concerned, the process is itself dynamic.The training needs are based on changing threat perception, operational objectives and analysis of the weaknesses and strengths of the forces. Army also issues a Biennial Training Directive, the core policy document which lays down the policy for the entire Army. It contains the Army vision, training objectives and approach to be adopted in meeting the training needs of the Army. Training needs are continually reviewed, updated and monitored at all levels.

Death of a soldier at Siachen

†1574. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a state of confusion is prevailing over death of a soldier named Balvinder who was deployed at Siachen Glacier in the night of 31st July;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for death of the said soldier?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):(a) to (c) The circumstances under which the death of No. 14438134 Gnr (TA) Balwinder Singh occurred, are under investigation.

Establishment of a Laboratory for testing torpedoes

1575. SHRI MURLIDEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the laboratory for the testing of torpedoes in sheltered water was established by Defence Research and Development Organisation;

(b) the details with amount invested therein;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.